Calendar
Monday 19th December  ‘Christmas in the Hills’ Family picnic and games night
Wednesday 21st December  “Out of Uniform Day” & Class Party Day
Wednesday 21st December  Year 6 Graduation Dinner
Thursday 22nd December  Last Day for 2011, Early finish 1.30pm

Friday 16th December, 2011
3/4G have been rehearsing their German Play Rumpelstiltskin
Parents are welcome to attend the show on Wednesday 21st Dec at 3pm.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT 16.12.2011
BUNNINGS SAUSAGE SIZZLE – A HUGE SUCCESS
Our fundraising effort at the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Sunday 11th December was a huge success. Thanks to the PA/Fundraising Committee (particularly Sue C & Kristy B) did a great job. Thanks to the volunteers (Cheryl S, Ken M, Anne F, Simon S, Annette D, Sue C, Kelly W, Misty L, Jessica M, Baden M, Michelle Mo, Natalie O, Jenny S, Eric S and children who assisted so well. We raised approximately $1,280. A mighty effort indeed! Congratulations everyone.

WRITTEN REPORTS - END OF THE YEAR
Semester 2 (December) Written Reports will be distributed today, Friday 16th December. Again I am insisting that report envelopes only be opened by parents or in the presence of a parent. Please complete the Parent Comment page and return the page for photocopying for us to complete our records. I thank the teachers for their great efforts in completing the reports with such good detail.
Prep H Chelsea
For quickly removing rubbish from our compost bins without

1/2A Imogen
For encouraging her team mates and being such a good sport during our class game of Kick and Run.

1/2A P.E. Award Sienna
For great hitting skills during the P.E. cricket activities.

1/2A P.E. Award Hannah
For great hitting skills during the P.E. cricket activities.

3/4G Connor
For his hard work completing his Maths Plus work and for winning “Minute to Win It”.

6R Jayden
For an excellent persuasive text on responsible pet ownership and an almost perfect score for dictation.

**CHRISTMAS IN THE HILLS** FAMILY PICNIC & CAROLS EVENING
The annual event will be held on Monday 19th December from 6:00 pm on the school oval. We would expect an appearance from Santa Claus at some time, possibly about 7:00 pm. All families are welcome to attend and have a relaxing time with some games and exercise for the children. Carol singing will be a feature of the evening at about 7:30 pm.

**EARLY DISMISSAL ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM 4**
On Thursday 22nd December dismissal will occur at 1:30 pm with a lunch hour being eliminated. This means of course that there will be no lunch orders on this day. The final assembly for the year will be held at 1:15 pm and all parents are welcome to attend. The Christmas Hamper Raffle will be drawn at this assembly.

**PARENT HELPERS MORNING TEA**
This event went very well on Tuesday with excellent attendance from parents and helpers. We are very much reliant on this help and with the terrific level of community involvement our children are indeed fortunate; they reap the benefits. Thanks again parents and helpers for your great assistance, it is truly appreciated. Thanks also to all staff member for assisting in preparing the morning tea.

**OUT OF UNIFORM DAY AND CLASS PARTIES**
We will be holding an Out of Uniform Free Dress day (notice accompanying the newsletter) and Class Party day on Wednesday 21st December. A gold coin donation is required for free dress with the proceeds going to the Shire of Yarra Ranges for looking after families in need over the holiday period. Individual details will be sent home regarding class parties.

**STAFFING FOR 2012**
Final staffing for 2012 is still not resolved and may not be until Friday 23rd December. We do know some of the changes but others are awaiting further advice. A note detailing anticipated class structures and anticipated staff has been included in the Student Written Report envelope for parents.

**NO TWILIGHT WORKING BEE ON FRIDAY 16TH DECEMBER**
A reminder that the final Twilight Working Bee scheduled for tonight will be cancelled.

**FINAL SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING**
This was held on Monday 12th December. Discussions and decisions included:
- Final budget changes made for 2011 Lunch orders in 2012 will not be available on Mondays, only Tuesdays to Fridays.
  - The current staffing situation was detailed

**UPCOMING EVENT**
**YEAR 6 GRADUATION- DINNER & PRESENTATIONS**
The Year 6 Graduation Dinner and Presentations will be held on Wednesday 21st December at Marybrooke beginning at about 6:00 with dinner at 6:30 pm. The formal part of the evening involving parents and family members for presentations and speeches will be held at about 8:30 pm.
CAMEO EXCURSION

We are having a Whole School Excursion to the Cameo Cinema in Belgrave to view the movie “Arthur Christmas 2D” on **Tuesday 20th December from 10-12**.

We will be walking to the theatre along the bike track. Lunch will be at the outdoor theatre before the return trip by foot.

The cost is $8.00. The notice and permission have been distributed. To attend we must have received payment and permission form signed.

Please note that any outstanding detention notices need to be returned to the school to ensure participation in the special activity.

RED FACES 2011

Practice sessions will continue! The annual Red Faces performances will be held on the last day of school. **Thursday 22nd December**. Children will need to be prepared and rehearse in readiness for their performances. A list will circulate the grades for children to register their act. Priority will be given to single involvement for children before any multiple acts will be considered (Children encouraged to perform only once-individually or with a group). Parents will be welcome to attend the event. Start time is anticipated to be 9:30 am and acts will continue until about 11:00 am.

CLASSROOM KRIS KRINGLE

The staff has decided to plan for a Kris Kringle activity for the last day of school again this year. All children will be invited to participate within each grade and bring a small gift for another. The gift is requested to be about $5 or $6 dollars. - not compulsory for children to participate. The value of the gift is to be paid towards next year’s school fees. Any parent whose children are not returning in 2012 may request a refund of $40 or for the Buildings & Grounds Levy for 2011 may request a refund of $40 or for the amount to be paid towards next year’s school fees. Any parents whose children are not returning in 2012 may request the refund from the school office. A draw will also be made for the end of year Working Bee Prize with names of those attending during the year being put in a draw for some prizes.

END OF YEAR PLANNING

WORKING BEE ATTENDANCE 2011

Please remember that anyone who has paid the Buildings & Grounds Levy for 2011 may request a refund of $40 or for the amount to be paid towards next year’s school fees. Any parents whose children are not returning in 2012 may request the refund from the school office. A draw will also be made for the end of year Working Bee Prize with names of those attending during the year being put in a draw for some prizes.

HELPING HAND

WORK EXPERIENCE

Caitlin P (aunt of Connor and Taylah V) has begun completing classroom assistance duties in Prep H for the end of term. Welcome to Caitlin, we are confident she will gain valuable work experience.

REMINDERS

SCHOOL FEES & BOOKLIST PRICES FOR 2012

School Fees for 2012 will be $265 for the first child and $215 for the second child (This includes a $40 B & G levy- refundable on attending a working bee.) The Booklist component of the school fees will be $125.

The information sheets have already been distributed to all families. Please see the office if you have misplaced your copy.

UPWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS HAMPER

Donations for the school Christmas Hamper Raffle are now being collected in each classroom. Each Grade has a different theme and we are asking for donations to fill the hampers. Tickets for the Christmas Raffle have also been distributed in booklets of 10 tickets (50 cents a ticket). Please return by **Wednesday 21st December**. The themes are:

- Grade 5/6R: Chocolate
- Grade 3/4G: Baking & Cooking
- Grade 1/2A: Christmas Decorations, Ornaments
- Grade Prep H: The Beach

Staff: The Garden

The draws for the hampers will be held at the final assembly on **Thursday 22nd December**.

PARENT ACCOUNTS & BASC ACCOUNTS

A reminder to please make prompt payment when you have received your final account for the year. We are in the process of completing payments for many activities for which some parents have not yet paid. Contact the office for assistance if required.

CONGRATULATIONS

UPWEY HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS

Recently Upwey High completed their Presentation Evenings for 2011 with awards to recognise special achievements during the year. It was pleasing to note that several ex-Upwey PS students featured in the awards. Congratulations to- Liam T for being Dux of Year 9. Other award winners were: Bethany A, Shannon H, Danielle W, Ashleigh T- Yr 9 and Alex J- School Captain for 2012.

THANKS

LIBRARY STOCKTAKE

Thanks to Jenny M (our volunteer Library Technician) for her terrific effort and volunteer work in completing the Library Stocktake. She works tirelessly for the benefit of the school and we appreciate the extra time she is putting in at the moment.

LOST ITEM

CLASSROOM DIGITAL CAMERA

A classroom digital camera has been misplaced and we are seeking the assistance from parents and children in locating the item. It is a Silver Pentax Optio M30 Digital Camera (7.1 megapixels) with the school name and Number 5 inscribed on the side. It was protected by a blue and black camera case. If anyone notices the camera around please contact a staff member to let them know.

Keep an eye open during clean up!

JUST FOR FUN

PLAYING WITH WORDS

When you dream in colour, it’s a pigment of your imagination.
Dear Santa,

Thank you for being so kind and making our Christmas special. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's to a joyful holiday season for you and your magical creatures!

From Santa
Parents Association News

Thank you to the Upwey Primary School Community for supporting the P.A. in 2011. Your support has been wonderful.

The Christmas raffle will be drawn on the last day of school. Please don’t forget to drop in your hamper donation to the office. We still have spare raffle books if required.

Another Thank you to all of the families who are donating their time on Sunday for the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. We raised an amazing $1,280.00.

Please consider becoming a member of our P.A. in 2012. It’s a fantastic way in meeting new fun people and toddlers are welcome too.

Come and join us for a cuppa and a chat.

Hot Diggedy Dog Day

Thank you P.A. for a yummy lunch

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The Shire of Yarra Ranges

We need your support to ensure no child in the hills goes without a present at Christmas.
(department store Giving Trees gifts are not distributed in the Hills)

Here’s how you can help:

1. Give a gift for a child
   Take a tag from the Giving Tree at the Belgrave Library, purchase a gift for the child described and leave it under the tree by Thursday 15th December 2011

2. Make a tax deductible donation (over $2)
   Cheques and cash donations can be forwarded directly to DFERS. Please contact DFERS for details on how to donate via direct debit or credit card.

Please drop your donations off at our office in the box that has been provided by the Shire of Yarra. Thank you for your kindness.

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The Perfect Christmas Gift

Bookings or Enquiries:
Call: 0414 340 910
Mail: bookings@tasteforbaking.com
Visit: www.tasteforbaking.com

Let us inspire you with the ‘Why to’ as well as the ‘How to’ of baking your own bread, as we explore the best kept secrets of French bread making.

For $180 you’ll get a 5-hour session, for you and up to 2 friends, in your own kitchen.

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Working Bee

Has been Cancelled for Tonight
SONG WRITING

UPWEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, 2012

THE PROGRAM AIMS TO DEVELOP STUDENTS’ CREATIVE AND VOCAL EXPRESSION.

STUDENTS COULD EXPECT TO LEARN BASIC SONG STRUCTURES AND EASY ACCOMPANIMENT ON KEYBOARD OR GUITAR, CREATING SONGS IN ANY STYLE OF MUSIC THEY LIKE.

NO PRIOR EXPERIENCE OR SKILLS REQUIRED.

$30 PER INDIVIDUAL / $20 P.P. IN PAIRS

ENQUIRIES: LISA O’BEIRNE PH. 97582420

SELBY NETBALL CLUB

Players Wanted!

Selby Netball Club is now taking Registrations for next season - new players always welcome! If you would like to play netball next year or would just like some more information please contact Margie O’Bryan (Secretary) on 0409 959 132 or by email at selbynetball@hotmail.com.

Shire of Yarra Ranges

We have uploaded to our website the Yarra Ranges School holiday program that was a result of the many contributions from the Yarra Ranges Child Youth and Family Network and vulnerable families working group. Please find it under links for parents at http://www.easternhealth.org.au/mentalhealth/fapmitraining.aspx#links%20to%20help.

Many families find the school holidays a difficult time and so this is a wonderful resource.

Triathlon Kids

Triathlon Kids will be running their very popular January School Holiday Clinic at Syndal South Primary School, Mt Waverley on Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th Jan 2012.

Included in the Early Bird Special of $40 ($60 from 24th December)

- Two morning (9-11) of coaching by TX experienced junior coaches.
- Triathlon Skills taught in a fun filled game style.
- Two different programs for these age groups approx 7-9 and 10-15.
- Last hour Satchelon (run/walk/run) with finishing certificate.
- 2LH bag and water bottle.
- Prize giveaways from our Sponsors.
- Alternative wet weather Triathlon Program in the Gym.

Plus Free Entry into Race 3 Xsize Kids Triathlon at Elwood Sun 22nd Jan.

Register via www.triathlonkids.com.au Limited Spaces!!
Term 4, 2011 - Upwey Primary School

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Term 1, 2012 - Upwey Primary School

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Before & After School Care

Hi all.

Well the last week of school is upon us. There will be no set program this week. We will be spending our afternoons making Christmas decorations & playing games outside.

Please don’t forget to book your children into BASC for the last day of school, it is a 1:30 start and pickup by the normal time of 6pm.

We will be having a bit of a party to celebrate the end of the year. Food and games until 4pm and after that we will settle in to watch a movie.

As I will be providing a fair bit of food for the afternoon, please book ASAP to help with catering plans.

I hope you all enjoy the last week of school and will see you Monday.

Sam :)
**Christmas tree brownies recipe**

These festive white chocolate crackles are a chocoholic’s dream. Your kids will love helping you make up this easy version of White Christmas: creamy white chocolate, almonds, coconut, dried mixed fruit – all with the crackle of rice bubbles. In fact, hard to keep them away from little mouths!

**Ingredients:**
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 400g white chocolate, chopped
- 1/2 cup thickened cream
- 1 cup desiccated coconut
- 1/2 cup sultanas
- 1/4 cup dried paw paw, chopped
- 1/4 cup dried pineapple, chopped
- 2 glace apricots, chopped
- 1 1/2 cups rice bubbles

**Method:**
- Place 24 cupcake paper cases onto a tray.
- Toast almonds in a non-stick frying pan over medium heat for 3 minutes or until golden. Stir frequently because once they start to brown it happens quickly. Transfer to a plate to cool.
- Melt the white chocolate and cream in a glass bowl over a saucepan of simmering water. The bowl should not touch the water. Remove bowl from saucepan and place on a teatowel.
- Add the dry ingredients to chocolate and mix well.
- Spoon mixture into paper cases. Store covered in refrigerator until serving.

**Christmas tree brownies recipe**

These Christmas tree brownies make gorgeous Christmas gifts to give or just look great to take on a platter for a party. They are easy to make and even the kids can help with this recipe. They are a traditional brownie recipe with a Christmas spin!

**Ingredients:**
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1 1/4 cups sugar
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup self-raising flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder, sifted
- 1 tub Betty Crocker Vanilla icing
- 1 pkt rice crackers
- Cachous
- Coated choc chips
- M and M’s

**Method:**
- Preheat oven to 180°C. Line a round cake tin with baking paper and set aside.
- In a bowl, beat the sugar and eggs together and light and fluffy.
- Beat in the flour, melted butter, cocoa and vanilla until well combined.
- Pour into cake tin and bake for 25-30 minutes.
- Leave to cool and slice into 8 wedges.
- Place the vanilla icing in a ziplock bag and snip the corner off. Pipe the icing onto the wedges to cover the whole brownie.
- Place a rice cracker into the bottom to create a tree stump.
- Decorate with various decorations to your liking.